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ULVERSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
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ULVERSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1966

Divisional Health Office,
Brogden Street,
Ulverston.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ulverston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1966.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	3,196
Population - Census 1961	10,527
- Registrar General's Estimate of home population mid 1965	10,400
Number of inhabited dwellings	3,502
Rateable Value	£337,244
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£1348.5458.

Although a large part of the district is rural in character a variety of industries are carried on in the town, the chief of which are tanning, manufacture of anti-biotics and other pharmaceuticals, electrical accessories, and light engineering. Agriculture plays a large part in the life of the community and a cattle market is held weekly. Ulverston is also the market town for the surrounding countryside and a public market is held once a week.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for 1966 and for the preceding five years are given on page 2.

Of the 182 live births registered during 1966, 83 were males of which 4 were illegitimate and 99 were females of which 7 were illegitimate.

Approximately 62% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over. The principal causes of deaths were :- Heart disease 72, Vascular lesions of nervous system 60 and Malignant Growths 22. Of the 72 deaths from Heart disease 55 were due to Coronary Artery disease.

The adjusted live birth rate of 19.1 per 1,000 and the adjusted death rate of 12.5 per 1,000 can be compared with the corresponding rates for England and Wales of 17.7 per 1,000 and 11.7 per 1,000 respectively.

Year	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality Total		Neo-Natal	
	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
1966	182	17.5	176	16.9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	16.5	2	11.0
1965	158	15.3	162	15.7	1	6.3	Nil	Nil	1	6.3	1	6.3
1964	157	15.1	182	17.6	3	18.8	Nil	Nil	3	19.1	1	6.4
1963	146	13.9	185	17.6	3	20.1	Nil	Nil	3	20.5	1	6.8
1962	154	14.7	161	15.4	1	6.5	Nil	Nil	5	32.5	4	26.0
1961	140	13.5	138	13.3	3	21.0	Nil	Nil	1	7.1	Nil	Nil
Average 5 years 1961-65	-	14.5	-	15.9	-	14.5	-	Nil	-	17.1	-	9.1

Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 1.09) = 19.1 per 1,000
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 0.74) = 12.5 per 1,000

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :-

J.L. WILD, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments held :-

Medical Officer of Health -

Dalton-in-Furness Urban District.
Grange-over-Sands Urban District.
North Lonsdale Rural District.

Divisional Medical Officer -

Health Division No 1 -
Lancashire County Council.

Public Health Inspector :-

J.K. YATES, Joint Board Certificate R.S.I.
Meat and other Foods Certificate.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY

The Furness Water Board is now responsible for the provision and maintenance of public water supplies in the Ulverston Urban District. The water supplied to the District is upland surface water which is collected into Pennington reservoir. It is sand filtered, then stored in a service reservoir of $2\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons capacity. Subsequently it is chlorinated before passing into the trunk main for distribution.

The supply was satisfactory in quantity and quality throughout the year.

During the year 67 new houses were connected to the public mains and at the end of the year 3,478 houses were supplied direct and 6 were supplied from private sources.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The sewage is screened and disintegrated, then stored and discharged out to sea only on an ebb tide, but storm water overflow is pumped out to sea at any state of the tide. All operations are automatic.

At 31st December, 1966, there were approximately 3,460 houses on the water carriage system with approximately 7,000 fresh water closets.

HOUSING.

(1) Number of new dwellings erected during the year :-

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Flats</u>
(1) By the local authority	4	Nil
(2) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	63	Nil

(2) Total No. of Council-owned dwellings existing at end of year 1,048

(3) Inspections of dwellings during the year :-

(1) (a) Total No. of dwellings inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	51
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	137
(c) No. of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	51
(2) Total No. of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which	
(a) Demolition Orders have been made (at any time)	31
(b) Demolition or Closing Orders have not yet been made	19

(4) Houses Demolished:-

In Clearance Areas:

- (1) Houses unfit for human habitation
- (2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.
- (3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957

Not in clearance Areas:

- (4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957
- (5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health
- (6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts
- (7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders

<u>Houses Demolished</u>	<u>Displaced during year</u>	
	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
19	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil
2	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil

(5) Unfit Houses Closed :-

- (1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957
- (2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957
- (3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957

<u>Number</u>	<u>Displaced during year</u>	
	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
10	33	10
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil

(6) <u>Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied :-</u>	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(1) After informal action by local authority	14	Nil
(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts (b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	1 Nil	Nil Nil
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil
(7) <u>Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957) :-</u>		Nil
(8) <u>Purchase of Houses by Agreement :-</u>	<u>Number of houses</u>	<u>Number of occupants of houses in Col. (1)</u>
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders purchased during the year	(1) 4	(2) Nil
(9) <u>Housing Act, 1949 and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 - Improvement grants, etc.</u>	<u>No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected in schemes of -</u>	
Action taken during the year :-	<u>Private Bodies or individuals</u>	<u>Local Authority</u>
(1) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	1	-
(2) Approved by local authority	1	-
(3) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	-	-
(4) Finally approved by Ministry	-	-
(5) Work completed	-	-
(6) Additional separate dwelling included in (5) above	-	-
(10) <u>House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, Standard Grants:-</u>	<u>No. of dwellings or other buildings affected</u>	
Action during year :		
(1) Applications submitted to local authority for improvement to (a) full standard (b) reduced standard		28 Nil
(2) Total applications approved by local authority for improvement to (a) full standard (b) reduced standard		26 Nil
(3) Work completed		21

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Information regarding the inspection of meat, shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Public Health Inspector (Appendix 'A').

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of cases of infectious disease notified in 1966 is given in the table below, together with the numbers notified in the preceding 5 years.

Disease	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Scarlet fever	0	1	0	8	2	0
Measles	90	23	192	21	264	36
Whooping cough	5	0	12	2	0	0
Dysentery	2	0	1	1	0	0
TOTALS	97	24	205	32	266	36

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 3 new cases of tuberculosis notified during 1966 and one death in a woman aged 74 years.

The table below shows the number of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston Urban District residents during the past 12 years.

Years	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1955	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1956	4	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
1957	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1958	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
1959	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
1960	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
1961	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
1962	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1963	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1964	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1965	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
1966	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above-mentioned Acts.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Ulverston Urban District Council, particularly the Public Health Inspector for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J.L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1966.

Informal action initiated in 1965 for the improvement of houses up to at least Standard Grant requirements has continued, with varying degrees of success. From the 360 houses in areas Nos. 1 and 2 (Central Town Area) only 10, mainly occupied by elderly people, are still without the standard amenities and no further action is contemplated for the time being. The problem will eventually solve itself and all the houses in these two areas should come up to the present day standards.

In the middle of 1966, as a result of the partial success mentioned above, Area No. 8 (South Ulverston) was considered to be the first priority if deterioration of the older type of housing is to be prevented. Much of this property is approximately 80 years old and several of the houses are only in a fair state of repair. The majority of houses could be made capable of serving a further useful life, at least until the end of the 15 year grant period and this is particularly obvious at houses where repair, improvement or modernisation has already been carried out.

Inspections revealed that only 58 of the 154 houses were up to full standard. In addition, housing defects were found and 29 informal and formal notices were served on property owners to carry out works of repair. All owners, and where necessary tenants, were given details of the scheme for area improvements, and individual improvements required at the particular house, in order to preserve all the houses in the area.

The results so far have not been very encouraging. The occupants of 40 houses in three of the streets have intimated that they are not interested in the installation of bathrooms etc. and this suggests that nearly half the sub-standard houses could remain in their present state. It is understandable where property owners with houses let at a net rent of 10/- a week or less (of which there are several) are reluctant to consider improvements sometimes in addition to fairly extensive repairs, which could cost the equivalent of the present rent for a period at least as long as the expected life of the property. In other cases it is difficult to comprehend the indifference shown by several tenants, and owner occupiers, to the improvement of their houses where financial reasons are not apparently the main deterrent.

Ten undertakings not to re-let unfit houses which are scheduled for demolition for road improvement purposes were obtained from the respective owners on re-housing of the occupants. In addition 21 unfit houses were demolished, 19 being in the Brewery Street Clearance Area and the other two previously closed. 33 persons were re-housed from unfit houses.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Two offices and one shop were added to the register making a total of 168 registered premises, and made up as follows :-

Offices	26
Retail shops	124
Wholesale premises	3
Catering establishments	14
Fuel storage premises	1

126 visits were made during the year. The four main contraventions being in respect of temperature requirements; provision of proper first aid equipment; unsatisfactory washing facilities and obstruction of floors, passages and stairs. Three accidents were reported and in one of these cases investigations revealed the possibility of negligence on the part of contractors carrying out works of alteration. No legal action was taken.

FOOD - MEAT INSPECTION.

There was a slight decrease from 1965 in the number of animals slaughtered and inspected at the Public Abattoir. Once again Tuberculosis was not found in any animal and of the 31 carcasses condemned, most were suffering from conditions normally found in meat inspection. The number of casualty animals is decreasing and this may be due to the owner of the animal having to find a purchaser for the meat if the carcass is subsequently passed fit for consumption.

Water spraying of carcass meat for purposes of removing stains as opposed to the use of wiping cloths, has been the general practice for several years. This method had been criticised by some butchers but new legislation prohibiting the use of wiping cloths on carcass meat has resulted in general acceptance and experience shows that judicious use of clean cold water has not resulted in any justifiable complaint.

Alterations in the lairage buildings whereby some of the cow stalls were removed and two cattle pens erected in their place have been of great help in providing additional facilities for the segregation of animals awaiting slaughter.

A table showing the number of animals inspected and condemned is appended.

Carcasses inspected and condemned

	<u>Cattle excluding Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed	1135	69	85	4729	2131
Number not inspected	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	6	8	13	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	48	11	-	12	12
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Cysticerci</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Unsound Food surrendered or condemned.

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
Meat at Slaughterhouses	2	2	$\frac{1}{2}$
Meat at Wholesale premises	Nil	Nil	Nil
Meat at Retail Shops			$9\frac{1}{2}$
Cooked meat and meat products	Nil	Nil	Nil
Canned meats			$104\frac{1}{2}$
Fish			$6\frac{1}{2}$
Fruit and vegetables		2	17
Other foods			31
Total :	2	5	57

OTHER FOOD PREMISES.

Three complaints of foreign bodies in food were received. The commodities concerned were bread, cereals and confectionery, but after investigation and analysis where necessary, no legal action was taken. This decision had to be made because either the original purchaser would not appear in court as a witness or the foreign body was not injurious to health and was a normal constituent of that particular article of food.

A total of 139 visits of inspection were made to food premises and where necessary notices were sent to the proprietors notifying them of some contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations. No prosecutions under the Regulations were taken.

SAMPLING.

13 samples of milk submitted for Methylene Blue Test were found to be satisfactory. 44 samples of milk sent for Biological Examination revealed 5 positive Brucellosis samples on culture and 7 positive on guinea pig test. No individual cow samples were taken as in previous years. With the receipt of Ministry Circular 17/66 it was possible to effect legislation prohibiting the sale of milk affected and Pasteurisation orders were served on two producer-retailers. With the help of his veterinary Surgeon one of the producer retailers isolated and disposed of all infected animals and the order was withdrawn on the 6th January, 1967. The other producer retailer installed a pasteurisation plant and discontinued the sale of untreated milk.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
in respect of the year 1966 for the Ulverston
Urban District in the County of Lancashire.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961.

Part 1 of the Act.

1 - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made
by the Public Health Inspectors).

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
Factories in which section 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	4	1	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	61	39	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	66	43	1	-

2 - Cases in which defects were found.

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred To H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector</u>
Want of cleanliness (S1)	1	-	1	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective draining of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S7)				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	1	1	-

Part VIII of the Act.

Particulars under Sections 133 and 134

No. of outworkers in August list	Nil.
No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	Nil.

